

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action mailed May 18, 2004 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-37 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 16, 18-19, and 21; and objects to Claims 2, 5, 7-15, 17, 20, and 22-30. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 31-37. Applicants amend Claims 1, 5, 7, 13-14, 16, 20, and 22. Applicants add New Claims 38-43. Applicants cancel Claims 2 and 17. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were necessary as a result of any cited art.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,182,528 issued to Zuta ("Zuta"). Applicants amend Claim 1 to include the limitations of objected Claim 2, as suggested by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 3-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuta. Claims 3-4 and 6 depend from Claim 1 shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-4 and 6.

The Examiner rejects Claims 16, 18-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,393 issued to Feulner et al. ("Feulner"). Applicants amend Claim 16 to include the limitations of objected Claim 17, as suggested by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 16. Claims 18-19, and 21 depend from Claim 16, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 18-19, and 21.

The Examiner objects to Claims 2, 5, 7-15, 17, 20, and 22-30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants cancel Claims 2 and 17 but incorporate their limitations into Claims 1 and 16, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 5, 7-15, 20, and 22-30 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5, 7-15, 20, and 22-30.

Applicants add New Claims 38-43. New Claim 38 includes limitations from objected Claim 2. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of New Claim 38. New Claims 39-43 depend from New Claim 38, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of New Claims 39-43.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

A check in the amount of \$158.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of additional claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any extra fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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